Message Text

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PAGE 01   BERLIN 05329 160934Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
    SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 ICA-11 /062 W
              ------------------105278 161121Z /13
R 160920Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7979
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 05329

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, GE
SUBJECT: GDR PRESS TREATMENT OF DEATH OF THE POPE

REFS: (A) BERLIN 5146, (B) STATE 205941 (NOTAL)

1.   THE EAST GERMAN PRESS REPORTS THAT THE GDR
WAS REPRESENTED AT POPE PAUL'S FUNERAL BY GERALD
GOETTING, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF STATE, AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE EAST GERMAN CDU. ALSO ATTENDING WERE
HANS SEIGEWASSER, STATE SECRETARY FOR CHURCH AFFAIRS,
AND KLAUS GYSI GDR AMBASSADOR TO ROME. GOETTING
OFTEN OFFICIALLY REPRESENTS THE GDRIN CONTACTS
WITH WESTERN POLITICAL LEADERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH
CHURCH TIES.

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2.   CARDINAL BENGSCH HELD A PONTIFICAL MASS
AUG. 11 AT ST. HEDWIG'S CHURCH IN EAST BERLIN. THE
CHURCH WAS FULL; THE REGIME WAS REPRESENTED AT THE
MASS BY HERMANN KALB, DEPUTY STATE SECRETARY FOR
CHURCH AFFAIRS, AND THERE WAS A BRIEF NOTICE OF THE
MASS IN EAST BERLIN PAPERS, INCLUDING NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
OF AUGUST 12/13.

3.   GDR PRESS REACTION TO THE DEATH OF POPE PAUL
WAS REPORTED REF A. THERE HAS BEEN NO OTHER
SUBSTANTIVE TREATMENT OF THE DEATH OF THE POPE NOR
ON ELECTIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR PRESS AND
OTHER REACTIONS.

COMMENT: GOETTING MADE A SPECIAL POINT IN INFORMING THE
AMBASSADOR DURING A SOCIAL FUNCTION AUGUST 15 THAT HE LED
THE GDR DELEGATION TO THE POPE'S FUNERAL AND HAD THE
PLEASURE OF GREETING MRS. CARTER. AMBASSADOR TOLD GOETTING
THAT HONECKER'S DIALOGUE WITH THE CHURCH HAD BEEN OBSERVED
IN THE U.S. WITH SATISFACTION; HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT
THE DIALOGUE WOULD CONTINUE WITH IMPROVED STATE-CHURCH
RELATIONS IN THE GDR. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Subject: GDR PRESS TREATMENT OF DEATH OF THE POPE
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, CDES, GC, (PAUL VI, POPE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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